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**Congresswoman Betty McCollum**  
**Statement for the Record**  
***Advanced Vehicle Technology Act (H.R. 3246)***  
**September 16, 2009**

**Ms. McCollum:** Madam Speaker, I rise today to express my support for the *Advanced Vehicle Technology Act* (H.R. 3246). I thank Chairman Gordon and the members of the Science and Technology Committee for their work on this important legislation, which will fuel innovation in the American automobile sector and capitalize on America's manufacturing infrastructure to spur the creation of millions of well-paying American jobs and reduce our greenhouse gas emissions.

Our country's approach to developing advanced technology vehicles must be comprehensive and coordinated to ensure innovation and advancement in our entire vehicle fleet. Historically, the Vehicle Technologies program at the U.S. Department of Energy has lacked a comprehensive approach to research and development, with various technologies competing for funding and imbalanced investment in between passenger and heavy duty vehicles research. The *Advanced Vehicle Technology Act* addresses these issues through authorization of long-term, sustained funding for a new comprehensive research and development program at the Department of Energy. H.R. 3246 invests in a diverse range of near-term and long-range vehicle technologies that will improve fuel efficiency, support domestic research and manufacturing, and reduce our country's dependence on petroleum that pollutes our planet and keeps us dependent on foreign energy sources. Such a comprehensive approach will fuel American innovation now and into the future.

Innovation is America's greatest strength. As our country recovers from a serious recession, funding for research and development is one of the best investments we can make to restore our American leadership in the global economy. America excels at high tech manufacturing, and investing in the development of a new generation of advanced technology vehicles will drive the creation of millions of new, well paying manufacturing jobs here at home. Innovation in vehicle technologies is also an important component in addressing the pressing challenge of global climate change. America's passenger and commercial transport sector produces one third of our country's total carbon dioxide emissions. Meeting the challenge of global climate change will require the development of a new generation of vehicles powered with clean energy.

Modernizing our nation's vehicle fleet through American innovation is critical for our economic prosperity, energy security, and responsible stewardship of our planet. I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 3246.